

Partnership Council
3/23/06

In attendance:

DEQ:

Dianne Nielson, Executive Director
Bill Sinclair, Deputy Director
Kevin Brown, Director, Division of Drinking Water
Ed Macauley, Division of Water Quality
Brad Johnson, Director, DERR
Leah Ann Lamb, Director, OPPA
Bruce Slater, OPPA
Donna Spangler, OPPA
Brandon Smart, OPPA
Deb Oberndorfer, EDO

Health Officers:

Gary House, Director, Weber/Morgan
Phil Wright, Director, Wasatch Council
Terry Beebe, Env. Director, Utah County
Royal Delagge, Env. Director, Salt Lake Valley Health Department

Budget and Contract Information

1. FY2007 Funding Level:

- Approximately 3% cola for local health departments and DEQ (\$12,500 for LHD).
- Preferred it to be across the board; should be for local health departments and DEQ employees.
- DEQ requested \$70,000 to replace general fund money for LHDs. Legislature did not provide the money. Other alternatives will be explored to fund portions of that money.
- DEQ received \$250,000 for High Level Nuclear Waste Opposition; \$200,000 for monitoring of AFOS, \$47,100 for Clean Fuels Program (originally Energy Office – not General Funds).
- Next step will be to provide information to LHDs for their budgets July 1.

2. Work Plan and Contract Status Report:

- Final year for 3-year contract; letter to renew contracts will be sent out from DEQ in June, identifying the funding amount.
- Presentation to LHDs on communicating and reporting for LHDs and public to view on web site was given. There is also a strategic planning link.
- ESD Plan: Also on web site. For each local health department there is a current work plan, letter from Dianne, amendment for asbestos lead base paint and each LHD's annual report.
- Also have a link to each of the LHD's web sites.
- Comments on the web page should be given to Bruce.

Legislation

1. Legislative wrap up

- Bills that Passed:
 - HB 43 – Sunset Review
 - 1HB138 – Mercury Switch Removal Act
 - SB209 – Waste Fee Amendments
 - HB 38 – Water Reuse Requirements
 - SB27 – Lake Powell Pipeline
 - HB45 – Bear River Development Act
 - 1SHB47 – Sales Tax Diversion
 - HB357 – Water Task Force Re-establishment
 - HB228 – Groundwater Management Plans
 - SB228 - Special Revenue Fund for Salinity Offset Program
 - HB93 – Clean Fuels Amendments
 - 3SHB46 – Energy Policy Amendments
 - SB153 – Uniform Environmental Covenants Act
 - HB271 – Petroleum Storage Tank Fund Amendments
 - Budget Allocations for Local Health Department COLA - \$12,500
 - UST Cost Recovery Attorney - \$43,600

- Bills that Did not Pass
 - SB251 – Banning Foreign Radioactive Waste Storage in Utah
 - SB262 – Student Vehicle Emissions
 - Resolution Approving Expansion of Commercial Radioactive & Mixed Waste Facility
 - HB385 – Corporate Franchise and Income Tax Credits for Biodiesel Fuel Production
 - 2SHB259 – Bond for Stay Order
 - HB335 – Radiation Control Act Bond Requirements
 - SB70 – Process for Approval of Waste Disposal Amendments
 - SB39 GF Surplus Appropriations for Water Development
 - Restoration of Local Health Department Cuts - \$70,000
 - Drinking Water Board Loan Administration Costs - \$71,000
 - Hazardous Substances Mitigation Fund - \$400,000
 - High Level Nuclear Waste Opposition - \$250,000
 - Air Quality CAFO Initial monitoring study - \$200,000
 - Clean Fuels Program Administration - \$47,100

2. Interim Items

- Assure adequate closure, post-closure and perpetual care funding of commercial hazardous and radioactive waste facilities
- Evaluate funding mechanisms for air quality planning, monitoring, and local collaboration for mobile sources in areas of the State that meet and do not meet air quality health standards

- Energy Policy Issues
- Ensure the solvency of the PST Fund
- Electronic Waste

LHD Issues/Priorities:

1. Environmental Public Health Workgroup:
 - Consists of 10 people (5 state and 5 locals)
 - Created by Dr. Sundwall as a result of meeting with Dianne and Gary
 - The purpose of the group is to try to restructure the old sanitation bureau of UDOH.
 - HB 114 was designed to look at minimum standards for food inspections, with a fiscal note of \$102,000 and it passed.
 - This workgroup is also looking at how to use the \$102,000. CLEHA has recommended that the money be used to hire 1.5 positions to focus on food and clerical support. The Association proposed a contract with the LHDs.
2. Public Health Service Delivery Plan
 - Number one priority identified in each focus group was Environmental Health. From here we go to workgroups of state and local employees to determine the specifics of a delivery process. We are about ½ way through the plan development process.
3. Meth Task Force
 - Gary House, Dianne Nielson and Dr. Sundwall are members.
 - Task Force was commissioned by the Governor and has a 2 year time frame.
 - Purpose is to try to determine strategies that will impact the production and distribution and use of meth.
 - Environmental clean- up committee has been established to look at what currently exists to see if it is effective and to identify gaps of what needs to be done with the intention of bringing forth some legislation.
 - Would like to see if there are deficiencies in the law and how it can be amended.
 - Number of labs is going down in Utah, but number of users is going up. The meth is being manufactured elsewhere and being brought into the State.
4. Onsite Wastewater Technical Assistance:
 - LHDs felt they needed experts on site to help with onsite wastewater rules development. The FTE that was hired may not be doing exactly what was originally intended.
 - This will continue to be tracked, with some specific goals and measures being set that will benefit LHDs and DEQ.
 - Person should also be more involved with USU Training Program.

5. Drinking Water Technology Sharing:

- Some counties were concerned that they were not getting back timely information on water system survey results.
- LHDs have been trying to get information posted – current and past water sample reports. They would like to have access to that list so that they can help systems comply.
- New DEQ database is approximately 2-3 months away. There will be a capability of accessing on the internet. Drinking Water will have a program on the internet called Waterwatch, which will allow databases for counties to be displayed. Drinking Water will provide training when it becomes available.

6. Communication during legislature/future funding approach:

- Gary expressed appreciation to DEQ for trying to get the \$70,000 restored to the local health departments.
- LHOs asked if they had not been available to support the issue, but many were not aware this issue was there. They assured DEQ that LHOs are available to provide expertise and support in the future on legislative issues when needed.
- Surplus money was available and yet local health departments did not receive any.
- What is the appropriate strategy to deal with the \$70,000 in the future?
- Last 12 years DEQ has lost over \$1 million in general fund money
- DEQ has shifted most of the burden to increased fees. Fee-driven programs are more acceptable than utilizing general fund monies.
- Need to find funding sources that are tied to something more acceptable than utilizing general funds.
- This funding item will be on the Partnership Meeting agenda in the fall, which we are doing, what we want to continue doing, what we would like to do.

7. Board Participation

- DEQ has attempted to give health officers permanent membership on boards as vacancies occur. LHOs are also regularly attending DAQ and DWQ board meetings and need to be recognized as participating, though unofficial, members.

Action Items:

1. Water Quality Variance Rule:

- Final proposed rule change is ready for the Board.
- Meeting was held with Craig Call and attorneys from DEQ, but there are still questions.
- LHOs don't want the variance procedure in the rule at all.
- Ed Macauley will follow up with Royal DeLegge and local health officers.
- Does this open the door for property owners to ask for the next level of variance.
- Liability would rest on LHDs if variances denied after State approval.

2. Mercury Clean-Up/Disposal/Public Communication Policy:

- DEQ just completed a voluntary pilot mercury removal from the State and collected 68 lbs of switches.
- Sonja Wallace, OPPA, is looking at the possibility of obtaining grants to assist with this endeavor.
- DEQ is working with Salt Lake County Health in the mercury exchange project, and is contributing a pamphlet on mercury cleanup.
- Royal Delegge, Salt Lake Valley Health Department, has agreed to take the collected amounts of mercury and put it into the SLVHD household hazardous waste disposal. Each local health department will be provided a bucket for collections. Whatever is collected will be picked up by SLVHD.
- There is a need for a standardized system for local health officers to tell people how to deal with mercury. All questions from the public need to be answered uniformly.
- Donna Spangler, DEQ PIO, is working with other PIOs on messaging and how to get the word out.
 - Campaign is in April.
 - PIOs will establish a location for the collection bucket
 - DEQ will issue a press release and customize a press release for the local health officers.
 - Campaign needs to be year-round.

3. Training needs – schedule:

- Issue is to make the LHDs aware of training at DEQ. Various training programs offered to divisions and can be offered to LHDs.
- Would be better to offer training to LHOs during winter months
- DEQ's training calendar is on Groupwise (does not include technical training)
- This will be a discussion item in next meeting - a specific list of training by media that the divisions have identified that is needed or would be helpful, followed by a discussion with CLEHA and LHOs.
- Bruce Slater will contact division directors and compile a training schedule which will be sent to LHOs via email. Bill Sinclair will email the 2006 DEQ Leadership/Employee Development training calendar to all environmental health directors.

4. Contact List – PDA Format:

- This was suggested for convenience; however if different formats are needed, then information should be provided directly to LHOs.
- Bruce will determine what the LHD's needs are; Brandon Smart would then supply the list in the format they need.

5. Next Meeting

- Full Partnership meeting in the fall. Bruce will identify dates.